Mr. Jerry Ray
Box 145
Lake Zurich, Ill. 60047

2/20/77

Dear Jerry,

I have read the so-called DJ Task Force report. It is, of course, totally dishonest.

Before getting to the reasons I write I want you to know that in my belief and from the uses made by the media what you and Jimmy consider smart stuff and to me is nonsense and bull is used effectively against Jimmy. This extends to his incompetent pro se suit that Richard filed for him. They reproduce that in full and in facsimilae as well as one of his letters to DJ. I have not called him Perry Mason for nothing. While you can't undo the past I again encourage you to stop all the wise-guy stuff and stop pretending you are another F. Lee Bailey.

They really ruin Lane, very simply, very easily, and deliberately incompletely. They held back. If the crazy and crooked committee was not already ruined what they do here and on this may finish them off. It should. If not the rest will be even worse. Believe me, I've had it for a long time, and I had this and much more of this than they used. They didn't even have to mention Freed. (But don't worry-he and Lane and Jimmy are all lumped together in the current Black Panther paper I have not yet obtained but hope to.) My belief is that they held this report up to kill both the book and the committee. If as would be normal for the date it is to be out the book is already printed, then I know I am right. The publisher, by the way, has been close to the CIA. Jim has stuff on this.

You will remember that I tried to talk to you about letters I knew Jimmy got and wrote. Well, none of you would tell the defense but the FBI had them. They do not mention some of which I know. They did mention one from Canada. I think another, too.

You will remember that I told you they knew they could put you away and didn't and that this was because you are loose in the mouth. Because John would not cooperate they really went after him. It is not in this report but I have it. It began with their going after the Grapevine. They say they did it to pressure John, never realizing that I would get it. And about the phone calls, the people he worked with said "those calls had a visibly disturbing effect on James Ray." At at least two point, without realizing or pretending not to realize what the FBI was up to they criticize it for not putting you away. One place right in front of me now is "Thus at least one family member, Jerry, had lied to the FBI and had become subject to federal criminal charges xx for aiding a fugitive." Precisely the two charges I warned you and told you about. They knew not later than 4/68, before Huie.

I'd like you to try and reconstruct what you can of June 1968. They had an informer on you then and got at least one of your letters. "The informant disclosed to Bureau agents on June 7,1968 that Jerry Ray stated he had seen his brother (James) at least once at a pre-arranged meeting place in St. Louis shortly after his escape. Jerry also stated to the informant that he had recognized the photographxx of Eric Starvo Galt as being identical with his brother James prior to the time the FBI contacted him....A Correspondence recovered by the Bureau indicated that Jerry may have heard from James in Canada in June of 1968." Can you figure out who the informer is and anything about this letter?

Is it beginning to get through to you that the combination of all the bull and cheap shots at cheap propaganda and not levelling with the defense was not a good idea and isn't? That the same is true of the Lane-Freed operation? That given a chance both of you always do what is wrong simply because you have inflated notions of what you can do and because you can't impart trust when you should? As I've said before, I'm sorry for you all over this. However, I still believe in the possibility of every word I told you in 11/76 at the airport. Unless you all mess that up, too. Sincerely,